

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 051870
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-02 DODE-00 EB-08 NSAE-00
USIA-06 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 MC-02 /034 R

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APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTON, JR.
NEA/RA:RHOBBS (PHONE)
PM/SAS:DHESTER (PHONE)

-----090421Z 080395 /70

P 090052Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 051870

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, AG, US

SUBJECT: SALE OF JEEPS TO ALGERIA

REF: A. STATE 37571 B. ALGIERS 0506

1. AM GENERAL SUBMITTED REGULAR WRITTEN REQUEST FOR MC
LICENSE TO EXPORT 1 M825 AND 1 M151A2 ON NOVEMBER 19.
TURNDOWN OF APPLICATION WAS COORDINATED BY PHONE ONLY
WITHIN DEPARTMENT AND FORMAL WRITTEN NOTICE OF DISAPPROVAL
WAS SENT TO AM GENERAL ON DECEMBER 3. AM GENERAL WAS THUS
AWARE THAT APPROVAL FOR SALE OF 200 M825 AND M151A2 JEEPS
TO ALGERIA WOULD NOT BE FORTHCOMING AND SHOULD NOT HAVE
GONE AHEAD WITH NEGOTIATIONS FOR SALE. APPARENTLY GOA
DOES NOT KNOW THIS.

2. AS INDICATED IN REF A WE UNDERSTAND FROM AM GENERAL
THAT AN ATTEMPT WILL BE MADE TO PERSUADE THE GOA TO ACCEPT
NON MC-LICENSED JEEPS. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE BEST TO
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PAGE 02 STATE 051870

HOLD OFF ON DISCUSSING MATTER FURTHER WITH GOA UNTIL AM
GENERAL HAS RECEIVED SOME REACTION TO THIS APPROACH. ANY
COMMENT TO GOA BY EMBASSY AT THIS POINT WOULD HAVE TO
EMPHASIZE THAT APPROVAL FOR THE 200 MC-LICENSED JEEPS
IS VERY UNLIKELY.

FYI. RATIONALE FOR DEPARTMENT'S DECISION TO TURN DOWN

JEEPS FOR ALGERIA IS RELATED TO SAHARA SITUATION. VEHICLES EQUIPPED WITH WEAPONS MOUNTS WOULD BE IDEALLY SUITED FOR HIT AND RUN TACTICS OF POLISARIO. AS PRINCIPAL ARMS SUPPLIERS TO POLISARIO, GOA PROBABLY WOULD MAKE THESE JEEPS AVAILABLE TO THEM AND POSSIBLY AFFECT BALANCE OF FORCES TO MOROCCO'S DISADVANTAGE. THERE WOULD BE NO BARRIER TO SALES OF JEEPS OF THIS TYPE TO MOROCCO, TUNISIA, ISRAEL, JORDAN, SAUDI ARABIA, AND KUWAIT. WHETHER EGYPT WOULD BE ELIGIBLE - WOULD DEPEND UPON HIGH LEVEL DECISION WHEN A SALE IS PROPOSED. ALGERIA, SYRIA, IRAQ AND LIBYA WOULD NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR LICENSES AT THIS TIME. END FYI.

4. IF GOA RAISES MATTER AGAIN PRIOR TO AM GENERAL APPROACH MENTIONED PARA 2 ABOVE, YOU MAY REPLY THAT EACH MC CASE IS CONSIDERED ON ITS MERITS IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR OVERALL ARMS SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COUNTRY CONCERNED AND THE SITUATION PREVAILING IN THE AREA. IN GENERAL WE DO NOT DISCUSS THE DETAILS OF OUR BILATERAL ARMS SUPPLY POLICIES WITH THIRD COUNTRIES AND ARE THUS NOT ABLE TO RESPOND TO THE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS POSED BY THE GOA IN PARA 2 C OF REF B. IF GOA PRESSES EMBASSY CONCERNING FUTURE USG POLICY ON MILITARY SALES TO ALGERIA, YOU MAY SAY THAT AT THE PRESENT TIME ALL REQUESTS FOR DEFENSE ARTICLES AND SERVICES ARE GETTING PARTICULARLY CLOSE SCRUTINY BECAUSE OUR GLOBAL ARMS TRANSFER POLICY IS UNDER REVIEW BY THE NEW ADMINISTRATION. UNDER TH" CIRCUMSTANCES WE CAN OFFER NO JUDGMENTS AS TO FUTURE POLICY ON ARMS SALES.

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PAGE 03 STATE 051870

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Message Attributes

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